

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims pending in the instant application are numbered 1-22. Claims 1 and 6 presently stand rejected. Claims 2-5 and 7-12 presently stand objected to. The Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 13-22 are presently allowed. The Applicant respectfully requests that the instant application be reconsidered in view of the following remarks.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

In the April 5, 2005 Office Action, claims 1 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Pioppo et al, US Patent No. 6,194,935 (hereinafter Pioppo).

With regard to a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102, MPEP § 2131.01 sets forth that

“A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)

Independent claim 1 of the instant patent application expressly recites:

1. A circuit, comprising:
 - a capacitor coupled to be alternately charged and discharged by first and second current sources;
 - a first voltage follower circuit including a first bipolar transistor having a base coupled to the capacitor, the first bipolar transistor biased such that a voltage at an emitter of the first bipolar transistor follows a voltage on the capacitor; and
 - a current mirror having first and second current paths, the first current path coupled to the base of the first bipolar transistor, the first current path providing substantially all of a base current received by the base of the first bipolar transistor.

Pioppo is directed to circuit and method for controlling the slew rate of the output of a driver in a push-pull configuration. Pioppo fails to disclose, teach or even fairly suggest the limitation of “a first voltage follower circuit including a first bipolar transistor having a base coupled to the capacitor,” as expressly recited in the presently claimed invention. Moreover,

Pioppo also fails to disclose, teach or even fairly suggest the limitation of “a current mirror having first and second current paths, the first current path coupled to the base of the first bipolar transistor, the first current path providing substantially all of a base current received by the base of the first bipolar transistor.” as expressly recited in the presently claimed invention.

The Applicant respectfully submits that although Pioppo discloses a capacitor 12 and a transistor 13, Pioppo nevertheless fails to disclose, teach or even fairly suggest the expressly recited limitation of “a first voltage follower circuit including a first bipolar transistor having a base coupled to the capacitor.” In particular, attention is kindly directed to Figure 2 of Pioppo. As shown, there is an intervening operational amplifier 11 coupled between capacitor 12 and the base of transistor 13.

In addition, although Pioppo discloses a current mirror formed with transistors 14 and 15, Pioppo nevertheless fails to disclose, teach or even fairly suggest the expressly recited limitation of “a current mirror having first and second current paths, the first current path coupled to the base of the first bipolar transistor, the first current path providing substantially all of a base current received by the base of the first bipolar transistor.” As shown in Figure 2 of Pioppo, operational amplifier 11 is coupled between Pioppo’s current mirror and the base of transistor 11. A fair reading of Pioppo shows that the first current path of Pioppo’s current mirror flows from Vdd through transistor 14, switch T1, resistor R1, node E, resistor R2, switch T2 and then through transistor 16 to ground. This first current path is not coupled to the base of transistor 11.

As is well known to those skilled in the art, the inputs to operational amplifiers do not draw current. Therefore, since the inputs of an operational amplifier do not draw current, no current is drawn by the operational amplifier 11 from Pioppo’s current mirror. Instead,

Pioppo's operational amplifier 11 senses a voltage at Node E from Pioppo's current mirror. Accordingly, the first current path of Pioppo's current mirror formed by transistors 14 and 15 does not provide substantially all of a base current received by the base of the transistor base of Pioppo's transistor 11, as expressly claimed.

Therefore, Pioppo fails to disclose, teach or fairly suggest at least the Applicant's expressly recited limitation of "a first voltage follower circuit including a first bipolar transistor having a base coupled to the capacitor" and/or "a current mirror having first and second current paths, the first current path coupled to the base of the first bipolar transistor, the first current path providing substantially all of a base current received by the base of the first bipolar transistor," as expressly recited.

Claim 6 is a dependent claim, as well as objected to claims 2-5 and 7-12, and are therefore distinguishable from Pioppo by virtue of their dependence from claim 1 in addition to adding further limitations of their own. Since Pioppo fails to disclose, teach or fairly suggest expressly recited claim limitations, the Applicant respectfully requests that the instant section 102 rejections be withdrawn.

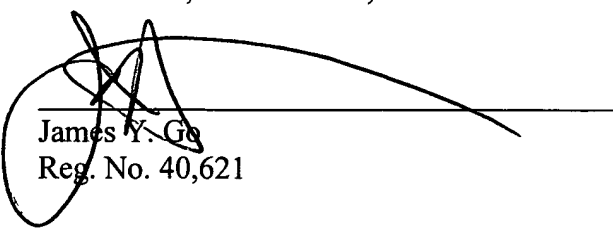
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The Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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